<u>REMARKS</u>

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 13, 2006. Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15 to 46, 63, 65 and 67 to 70 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, 9, 10, 12 and 13 have been amended, and Claims 1, 9 and 12 are in independent form. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 9 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for alleged indefiniteness. In this regard, it was alleged that the terms "folder searcher", "similarity degree" and "similarity order" are unclear. In addition, it was alleged that the preamble of Claim 9 crosses to separate statutory classes. The amendments to the claims are seen to attend to this rejection.

Furthermore, it was alleged that Claims 1, 9 and 12 omit essential steps. These claims have been amended in the manner suggested at page 3 of the Office Action.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112, second paragraph, rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

The Office Action also entered a requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.105 to identify what sources the formulas on pages 8 to 13, 18, 22 and 27 to 30 of the specification were obtained from.

It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing formulas are the Applicants' own formulas. For example, with regard to the equation $d = (t, v(d))$ on page 8, $v(d)$ is vector data representing the feature of a text t related to a vector space model. t is text data of a document d. $v(d)$ can be seen to correspond with the "feature of the new document" as recited in Claim 1.

In addition, with regard to the equation $f = (1, D, v(f))$ on page 8, the data D represents a set of documents retained in a folder f. The data $v(f)$ is vector data $(d \in D)$ which is an average of vectors $v(d)$ of documents d retained in a folder f. $v(f)$ can be seen to correspond with "an average of features of the documents stored in at least one candidate folder" as recited in Claim 1.

Furthermore, with regard to the equations $s = g(v(dn), v(fx))$ where $g(v(1), v(2)) = (v(1) \cdot v(2)) / (|v(1)| \, |v(2)|)$, on page 10, the function g is used for determining a similarity of documentary features between the new document $d(n)$ and the folder $f(x)$. The smaller this score, the more similar the features of the new document $d(n)$ are so that the folder is suitable for retaining the new document. This score can be seen to correspond with the "similarity degree" as recited in Claim 4. Additionally, the candidate folder retainer retains the corresponding folder number x in an ascending order of value of S, which can be seen to correspond with "storing the plurality of folders in accordance with the judged similarity degree" as recited in Claim 4.
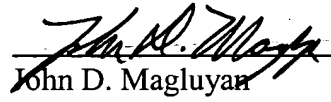
The formulas on pages 8 to 13, 18, 22 and 27 to 30 of the specification have not been incorporated into the independent claims, since it is believed that there is no requirement to do so. In this regard, the claims as currently pending are believed to be in full compliance with the requirements set forth under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

An Information Disclosure Statement accompanies this filing.

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